

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 21-25 are pending in this application. The claims are indicated as rejected pending response to a Requirement for Information under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105.

In response to the Requirement for Information, please find enclosed herewith an Information Disclosure Statement (previously submitted on April 3, 2006) listing all co-pending applications and related patents co-owned with the present application.

The claims of the present application under consideration are specifically directed to methods, *e.g.*, for modulating a person's autonomic function, for assisting, a person in recovering from physical exertion, or for treating hypotension, shock secondary to hypovolemia, sepsis or heart failure. The specific recitations of the methods are elements of the claims, and Applicants are not aware of any double patenting issues with the specifically claimed methods. While certain of the present claims relate to the use of a valve system to produce a vacuum within the thorax, it is submitted that the present claims are patentably distinct from the cited co-owned applications and patents, as no other co-owned claims relate specifically, *e.g.*, to autonomic function, recovery from physical exertion, *etc.* However, based on the citations provided in the Information Disclosure Statement enclosed herewith, if the Examiner believes that any double patenting issues do in fact exist, the Examiner is requested to issue a formal rejection indicating such.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/765,318
Amdt. dated April 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2006

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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